



State of Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners

1400 West Washington, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

(602) 542-3095 FAX (602) 542-3093

REGULAR MEETING

November 28, 2007

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Della Estrada, L.Ac., Chairman

Toni Bernalley, L.Ac., Professional Member

Diane Pruetz, Public Member (by telephone)

Joe Balensi, L.Ac., Professional Member

Toni Karnas, Public Member

Rebecca Wilks, MD, MD(H), Professional Member

Yong Deng, L.Ac., Professional Member

Board Members Absent:

Ross Adelman, Public Member

Vacancy

Attorney General Representative:

Seth Hargraves

Administrative Staff:

Pete Gonzalez, Executive Director

I. Call to Order

Chairman Estrada called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Board Member Della Estrada declared a conflict on the certificate application of Debra Pierce, Fred Ortega, Michelle A. Stoddard, Manuel R. Huaman, Brenda Morris, and Heather W. Taras.

Board Member Joe Balensi declared a conflict on the certificate application of Debra Pierce.

III. Discussion and Approval of Minutes

Board Member Bernalley moved the adoption of the minutes for the October 24, 2007 board meeting with Board Member Balensi providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 7-0 vote.

IV. Oral Proceeding on Proposed Rulemaking

The Board conducted the oral proceeding to allow for questions by the public about the current version of the proposed rules and to allow the submission of argument, data, views and other relevant information to help guide the Board in its rule making.

The Board did not receive any written or oral comments from the public regarding the proposed rules.

V. Applications for Licensure

Board Member Deng moved for the approval of the applicants for licensure listed below with Board Member Estrada providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 7-0 vote.

Larry A. Gatti, Jr.
Maria Yust
Susan Blaikie Recto

The Board discussed the application of Kari A. Svab since her transcripts from the Arizona School of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine do not reflect completion or graduation from a board approved training program.

Board Member Balensi felt that approval of this application without documentation of program completion would erode the standards of training.

Board Member Bernalley moved to table the license application of Kari A. Svab until the applicant provides documentation she has graduated and completed a board approved training program. Board Member Estrada seconded the motion and the motion was approved 7-0.

VI. Applications for Auricular Certification

Board Member Bernalley moved for the approval of the applicant for auricular certification listed below with Board Member Pruetz providing a second. The

Board approved the motion 5-0 with Board Members Estrada and Balensi not voting.

Debra S. Pierce

Board Member Bernalley moved for the approval of the applicants for auricular certification listed below with Board Member Pruetz providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Estrada not voting.

Michelle A. Stoddard
Manuel R. Huaman
Brenda R. Morris
Heather W. Taras
Diana Serino

Executive Director Gonzalez provided the Board with an explanation of the auricular application for Fred Ortega who cited his criminal history. Mr. Ortega provided the office with a fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The Board discussed the fingerprint process utilized by other licensing boards and asked the Executive Director to research this process for future discussion. Board Member Balensi, given his past experience, informed the Board that it's not uncommon for individuals working in treatment facilities to have criminal backgrounds.

Board Member Bernalley moved for the approval of the auricular certificate application for Fred Ortega with Board Member Pruetz providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Estrada not voting.

VII. Other Applications / Requests - Continuing Education

“Healing Community Trauma-How to Do Mobile Group Acupuncture for Disasters and Other Traumatic Situations-An Acupuncturists Without Borders Training” presented by Diana Fried for 15 continuing education units to be provided April 19-20, 2008 in Phoenix.

Board Member Balensi expressed his concerns with this application. His thoughts centered on whether there is direct connection to acupuncture found in this application. Furthermore, Board Member Balensi thinks the proposal does not qualify as continuing education material.

Board Member Pruetz moved to deny the above listed continuing education application with Board Member Karnas providing a second. The Board approved the motion to deny approval by a 6-0 vote with Board Member Estrada not voting.

The Board closed the oral proceeding at 2:18 p.m. and the public was notified that all comments must be submitted to the board office by Friday, November 30, 2007 at 5 p.m.

VIII. Professional Business

Board Member Pruetz moved for the approval of the proposed salary increase for the Executive Director with Board Member Estrada providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 7-0 vote.

IX. Executive Director Report

The Executive Director reviewed the written report distributed to the Board. The Executive Director presented the Board with a status report on the number of active Licensed Acupuncturists (440) and certified Auricular Acupuncturists (63) in the state.

The Board was informed of the Senate Health and House Health Committee of Reference recommendation for a ten year extension for the Acupuncture Board of Examiners. The Legislature will address this matter when it convenes January 2008.

Executive Director Gonzalez informed the Board that 1167 individuals visited the Board website during the month of October. Board Member Balensi expressed his appreciation for the web page and the content found on the site.

X. Future Meeting Dates

December 19, 2007
January 23, 2008

XI. Call to the Public

Ms. Patricia Martin addressed the Board regarding recommendations from the Arizona Society of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture for consideration by the Board. These recommendations include a request to have input on matters pertaining to the delivery of services to the public. The public should have an opportunity to speak before the Board takes action on agenda items. The second request is to have board meeting minutes posted on the website shortly after the meeting has taken place. Ms. Martin asked for these requests to be placed on a future board meeting agenda.

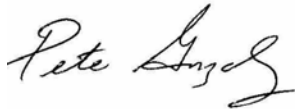
XII. Discussion of Items to be placed on a future meeting agenda

The Board asked the Executive Director to prepare information regarding the fingerprint process as related to licensure for future consideration.

XIII. Adjournment

Board Member Estrada moved for adjournment and Board Member Balensi provided a second. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Board adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Gonzalez".

Pete Gonzalez
Executive Director

Approved by the Board: December 19, 2007